

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1           1. (currently amended)       A method for producing a plastic, dimensionally stable  
2 corrugated tube (1) ~~which is provided, in particular, for protectively enclosing electrical lines~~  
3 ~~and which comprises a slitted opening~~ comprising the steps of:  
4               extruding a heated tube;  
5               ~~(4) that extends along a generating line, characterized in that the corrugated~~  
6 ~~tube (1), after it has been extruded and provided~~  
7               providing the tube with corrugated peaks (2) and corrugated troughs (3) ~~inside~~  
8 using a corrugator;  
9               slitting the tube ~~, is cut open along one of any of its a generating lines~~ line on  
10 a surface of the tube in a subsequent cutting device, whereby ~~the cut~~ a cut is made, which cut  
11 is oblique with respect to the surface of the tube at the cut, creating a slitted opening defined  
12 by two borders ~~is made at a uniformly ascending or descending angle, which is located at the~~  
13 ~~corrugated tube between a radius of the corrugated tube or a tangent in terms of its~~  
14 ~~inclination, namely as an oblique cut;~~  
15               passing the tube ~~and the cut open corrugated tube (1) is then passed through a~~  
16 deformation device subsequent to ~~the cutting device~~ slitting and ~~compressed~~ compressing  
17 therein while the tube is still heated from extrusion, whereby the borders (5) ~~and (6)~~ of the  
18 slitted opening (4) slip over one another, such that one border is inside the tube and the other  
19 border is outside the tube; and finally,  
20               after the ~~corrugated tube (1)~~ has cooled off, placing the border (5) of the slitted  
21 opening (4) ~~lying on the inside is guided~~ inside the tube outward and ~~it is laid over the other~~  
22 border (6) that was previously located ~~on the outside~~ the tube.

1           2. (currently amended)     A plastic, dimensionally stable corrugated tube  
2     ~~(1)formed by extrusion which is provided, in particular, for protectively enclosing electrical~~  
3     ~~lines and which comprises a slitted opening defined by two borders (4) that extends along a~~  
4     ~~generating line on a surface of the tube, echaracterized in that wherein the slitted opening (4)~~  
5     ~~is formed, after heated extrusion and after being provided with corrugated peaks (2) and~~  
6     ~~corrugated troughs (3) along one of any of its generating lines, by making a cut, which cut is~~  
7     ~~oblique with respect to the surface of the tube at the cut at a uniformly ascending or~~  
8     ~~deseending angle, which is located at the corrugated tube between a radius of the corrugated~~  
9     ~~tube or a tangent in terms of its inclination, namely as a linear, obliqued cut, and that the cut-~~  
10    ~~open corrugated tube (1) is compressed in a deformation device while the corrugated tube is~~  
11    ~~still heated from extrusion such that the borders (5) and (6) of the slitted opening (4) slip over~~  
12    ~~one another, such that one border is inside the corrugated tube and the other border is outside~~  
13    ~~the corrugated tube, and finally, that the border (5) of the slitted opening (4) lying on the~~  
14    ~~inside the corrugated tube is guided placed outward and is laid over the other border (6) that~~  
15    ~~was previously located on the outside~~ the corrugated tube after the corrugated tube cools.

1           3. (currently amended)     A—The corrugated tube as claimed in Claim 2,  
2     ~~echaracterized in that wherein~~ a protrusion (7), which is turned radially inward and extends  
3     parallel to the slitted opening (4), is provided, spaced apart from the slitted opening (4), on  
4     the side of the border (5), which was previously positioned ~~on the inside~~ the corrugated tube.

1           4. (currently amended)     A—The corrugated tube as claimed in Claim 3,  
2     ~~echaracterized in that wherein~~ said protrusion (7) is provided in the form of a ditch- or groove-  
3     shaped indentation (8) of the wall of the corrugated tube(1).

1           5. (currently amended)     A—The corrugated tube as claimed in Claim 4,  
2     ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ditch- or groove-shaped indentation (8) also has the  
3     undulating profile of the wall of the corrugated tube (4).

1           6. (currently amended)     A—The corrugated tube as claimed in any of Claims 2 to  
2     5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the border positioned inside the corrugated tube abuts against  
3     the protrusion ~~other border (6), which that was previously positioned on the outside, abuts~~  
4     ~~against the protrusion (7) opposite the border (6) with its edge (9).~~

1           7. (new)           A method for producing a plastic, corrugated tube comprising the steps  
2     of:

3                     extruding a heated tube;

4                     forming the heated tube into a corrugated tube;

5                     making a cut through a surface of the corrugated tube to create a slitted  
6     opening in a longitudinal direction along the corrugated tube, the slitted opening being  
7     defined by two borders;

8                     compressing the corrugated tube so that the borders of the slitted opening  
9     create an overlap with each other while the tube is still heated from extrusion, such that one  
10    border of the slitted opening is inside the corrugated tube and the other border of the slitted  
11    opening is outside the corrugated tube; and

12                    allowing the compressed corrugated tube to cool into a dimensionally stable  
13    article.

1           8. (new)           The method as in Claim 7, further comprising the step of reversing the  
2     overlap of the borders of the slitted opening after cooling such that the border that was inside

3 the corrugated tube is placed over the border of the slitted opening that was previously  
4 outside the corrugated tube.

1 9. (new) The method as in Claim 7, wherein the cut is made at an angle oblique  
2 with respect to the surface of the corrugated tube at the cut.

1  
2 10. (new) The method as in Claim 9, further comprising the step of reversing the  
3 overlap of the borders of the slitted opening after cooling such that the border that was inside  
4 the corrugated tube is placed over the border of the slitted opening that was previously  
5 outside the corrugated tube.

1 11. (new) A protective device comprising an extruded, plastic, corrugated tube  
2 having a slitted opening in a longitudinal direction along the corrugated tube defined by two  
3 borders, the borders of the slitted opening positioned by an inherent dimensional stability  
4 within the corrugated tube to create an overlap region such that one of the borders is inside  
5 the corrugated tube and the other border is outside the corrugated tube.

1 12. (new) The protective device as in Claim 11 wherein the inherent dimensional  
2 stability creates a closing force that positions an inside surface of the corrugated tube in a  
3 compressed relationship against an outside surface of the corrugated tube in the overlap  
4 region.

1 13. (new) The protective device as in Claim 12 wherein the slitted opening is  
2 made by a cut through the outside surface of the corrugated tube at an angle oblique with  
3 respect to the outside surface of the corrugated tube at the cut.

1           14. (new)    The protective device as in Claim 12 further comprising a protrusion  
2   located on the corrugated tube, which is turned radially inward and extends parallel to, and is  
3   on the same side as, the border of the slitted opening that is positioned outside the corrugated  
4   tube.

1           15. (new)    The protective device as in Claim 14 wherein the protrusion is in the  
2   form of a ditch or groove-shaped indentation of the wall of the corrugated tube.

1           16. (new)    The protective device as in Claim 15 wherein the ditch or groove-  
2   shaped indentation also has the undulating profile of the wall of the corrugated tube.

1           17. (new)    The protective device as in Claim 16 wherein the border of the slitted  
2   opening positioned inside the corrugated tube abuts against the protrusion.